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*Reports from city of Panama—Mortality, month of March, 1904.*

Assistant Surgeon Pierce reports through Surgeon Perry, April 9, as follows:

*Mortality during the month of March, 1904, in Panama, from the official records.*

Abscess .....	1	Malaria .....	4
Asphyxia .....	1	Nephritis .....	2
Beriberi .....	3	Parturition .....	2
Cancer .....	1	Pneumonia .....	21
Colic .....	5	Pain in the side .....	1
Cerebral fever .....	1	Phthisis .....	8
Croup .....	1	Suicide .....	1
Diarrhea .....	2	Stillborn .....	4
Dysentery .....	4	Scurvy .....	1
Dropsy .....	10	Strangulated hernia .....	1
Debility .....	2	Tuberculosis .....	3
Fever .....	11	Tetanus .....	1
Heart disease .....	1	Unknown .....	1
Hypertrophy of the heart .....	1	Ulcer .....	1
Liver disease .....	1	Wounds .....	1

Total number of deaths from all causes during the month, 97. Based upon the estimated population of 18,000, this gives an annual rate of 64.65 per thousand.

*Inspection of vessels—Mortality, week ended April 10, 1904.*

Assistant Surgeon Pierce reports, April 11, as follows:

During the week ended April 10, 1904, one vessel, the steamer *Acapulco*, cleared for San Francisco on April 8, having on board officers and crew 72, cabin passengers 17, and steerage passengers 12; total 101; all well.

During the week there were only seven deaths from all causes, as follows: Tuberculosis 2, dysentery 1, beriberi 1, parturition 1, poverty 1, unknown 1.

No quarantinable diseases have been reported since January 14.

*Report on proposed site for a quarantine station in Panama Bay.*

Assistant Surgeon Peirce reports, April 12, as follows:

The four small islands in Panama Bay transferred to the United States Government by the terms of the Hay-Bunau-Varilla treaty, known as Perico, Noas, Culebra, and Flamenco, are located about 2 miles from the city of Panama, almost due south from the peninsula upon which the city is built and southeast from La Boca, the present loading place for vessels and the mouth of the proposed canal.

These islands are owned by the Panama Railroad Company and the Pacific Mail Company, each having an undivided half interest. The Pacific Mail Company has a laundry, storehouse, repair shop, and coaling station on Noas. The other three islands are practically unoccupied.

All of these islands are very close to each other, are small and rough, there being no suitable space on any of them for the erection of a quarantine station. Their proximity to the city of Panama and the loading place for vessels would also make them undesirable as a quarantine site.

There is an island in Panama Bay called Taboguilla, about 9 miles

from the city of Panama, in a due south direction, that would make an admirable site for a quarantine station. This island is 1 mile long and one-half mile wide, containing about 400 acres, and is very mountainous, the highest elevation being 710 feet above sea level.

Upon the northwest side of the island there is a finely sheltered deep-water harbor between Taboguilla and Taboga,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles away. A disinfecting wharf built upon this side of the island would have to extend only 200 feet from the beach to have at low water sufficient depth of water alongside the wharf for any draft vessels.

The bottom at this place is of firm sand and offers no difficulties in the construction of a wharf. Upon the western slope of the hills there is enough comparatively level ground for the buildings that are necessary, such as a hospital, quarters for officers and attendants, detention buildings, etc. There are two springs upon the island which supply a small amount of good water for drinking purposes. One of the springs contains a large amount of magnesia and exerts quite a purgative effect. This water is highly valued by the natives for medicinal purposes. Tropical fruits, such as oranges, lemons, mangoes, nisperos, alligator pears, and papaya caricia, grow wild in profusion.

Upon Taboga,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles away, there is a settlement of about 800 inhabitants, but this would not interfere with the establishment of a quarantine at the site indicated on the inclosed chart.

Owing to the mountainous character of the land upon these two islands there are no pools of standing water, and consequently they can be made absolutely free of mosquitoes if the water tanks are covered. At the present time there are practically no mosquitoes on the islands.

Taboga is the source of water supply for all the steamers of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. Both these companies have water tanks there, fed by pipes from the mountain streams.

The island of Taboguilla is owned by private parties; Dr. Pablo Arosemena owns the northern half and several parties own the southern half.

No one lives upon the island except a few fishermen, who could be moved, as they do not own the land. Under the terms of the treaty this island could be secured at its actual value as being necessary for sanitary use.

The best site for a station is indicated upon the inclosed plan. The location of the island is very convenient to the usual route of all vessels coming to Panama, or intending to pass through the canal when it is finished. The course of vessels is indicated on the inclosed plan with dotted red lines.

Panama Bay is practically always smooth and sheltered. A more ideal location for a quarantine station than the one indicated upon Taboguilla could not be found, according to my opinion.

PERU.

*Plague at Lima.*

[Cablegram.]

LIMA, April 17, 1904.

WYMAN, Washington:

Total plague, Lima, 148.

LLOYD.